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Everywhere I went in Latin America and saw students, newsmen and government officials they raised approximately the same questions with me. They were usually asked in the form of declarations. The United States intervened in the Dominican Republic, they said, to deliberately crush a popular democracy. The foreign policy of the United States is determined by Wall Street. The United States companies bleed the economies of sorely needed capital. The internal economic policies of Latin American countries are determined by Wall Street. The Pentagon controls all of the Latin American military and overthrows governments which disobey Washington. Interestingly enough, these questions were, except for the Dominican Republic, exactly the same questions that I was repeatedly asked by students in Indonesia, in Japan, and all through Asia two years before. Though students in Indonesia laid a greater emphasis on the activities of the CIA than they did on the Pentagon. I don't know why. But the fact is that these were deeply held beliefs by all of the students, all of the future leaders of Latin America and, as I say, by students really across this globe. They thus frequently see politics, our politics, and the politics to some extent in their own countries, as a meaningless array. So their tendency is rather to ignore politics entirely. Many of them see moderate change as completely impossible. And only sweeping change, they think, can affect such a system.

Remarks by Robert F. Kennedy.